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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Letter dated 8 October 1990 from the Chairman of the Second
Committee to the President of the General Assembly

At its 2nd meeting, held on 8 October 1990, to consider its organization of work, the Second Committee agreed to submit a request to you that the debate on agenda item 79 (c) entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries" should, in view of the importance of the issue, be held directly in plenary, on the understanding that appropriate action on the sub-item would be taken by the Second Committee.

(Signed) George PAPADATOS
Chairman of
the Second Committee



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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. Pursuant to rule 103.5 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6). In addition, the Advisory Committee has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), and on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/45/226). The Advisory Committee also had before it the consolidated summary of the comments and recommendations made by Member States and intergovernmental bodies since 1988 on the draft introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/279).

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

2. The preparation of the medium-term plan is mandated by the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation; as stipulated therein,

"after adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which: (a) states the medium-term objectives to be attained in the plan period; (b) describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used; (c) gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources" (regulation 3.3). The Advisory Committee has previously stated that, "ideally, the medium-term plan should serve as the plan of work for the Organization, and that it should be set out in a manner that would permit Member States to review the work plan and the related priorities attached to the programmes in the plan and to give guidance as to what and how much can realistically be carried out during the plan period" (A/43/626).

3. It is the Advisory Committee's view that the time has come to address seriously the issue of whether the medium-term plan, in its current form, fulfils the criteria set out in the programme planning regulations and rules, and whether it permits the kind of review mentioned above. Notwithstanding the improvements which have been effected since the previous plan, the Advisory Committee is of the view that much remains to be done if the medium-term plan is to be of real use to the Member States and the Secretariat. In some of the paragraphs below the Committee makes a number of suggestions concerning further improvements. These are not intended to be exhaustive but rather to serve as a guide to the Secretariat and to generate further suggestions and discussion among Member States.

4. As stated in paragraph 1 of the Secretariat's consolidated summary of comments and recommendations on the draft introduction to the plan (A/45/279), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/213 (and subsequent resolutions), "the involvement of Member States in the process of preparation of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 has been wide-ranging and comprehensive". That involvement included the consideration of the Secretary-General's perspectives on the work of the Organization in the next decade (A/42/512) as well as a draft introduction to the plan contained in A/43/329 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. As stated in paragraph 234 of the Secretary-General's analytical report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/45/226), "a calendar of consultations of functional, regional and sectoral intergovernmental bodies on the various chapters of the plan was also submitted to ... the General Assembly in 1988 (A/43/626)", and "such consultations occurred during the course of 1989, within the constraints of the schedule of the meetings of intergovernmental bodies". In this connection, the Committee notes from the annex to the introduction of the draft medium-term plan that 29 programmes were reviewed by the relevant reviewing body/bodies.

5. The Advisory Committee welcomes this development; it also notes the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 235 of his report A/45/226, that "the preparation of both the medium-term plan and the programme budget would benefit from a greater involvement of specialized intergovernmental bodies". The Committee shares this view and trusts that more programmes will be subject to review by an appropriate body in the future. In this connection, the Committee is cognizant of the fact that a competent reviewing body does not exist in respect of all programmes. However, it hopes that where such a body exists the necessary review will be undertaken. The Committee is also aware that the calendar of conferences does not facilitate such a review in all cases; that point is highlighted by the Secretary-General in the same paragraph of his report wherein he notes that the

obstacles to overcome regarding a greater involvement of specialized intergovernmental bodies "are, however, extremely severe", and "pertain to the complexity of scheduling meetings in relation with several constraints and objectives ...". Nevertheless, the Committee trusts that every effort will be made to expand the review.

6. The Advisory Committee is also of the view that for the consultative process to be meaningful the quality of the intergovernmental review needs to be improved. In this connection, the Committee understands that discussions by a number of relevant bodies were less than exhaustive and that this in turn related in part to the quality of the draft texts of programmes submitted.

7. The Advisory Committee also understands that the lack of debate reflected in part a lack of familiarity on the part of the reviewing bodies with this type of task, as well as, as stated in the Secretary-General's report A/45/226, "the difficulty, for Member States and within the Secretariat, to develop and share a common language on matters of programming and budgeting" (para. 235). That being the case, it is essential that the submissions to reviewing bodies be clear and concise. In the opinion of the Committee, the "development of a common language" can be achieved through greater involvement of top management in the preparation of the draft plan.

8. At the same time, the Advisory Committee emphasizes that the competent reviewing bodies should provide specific guidelines to the Secretary-General, including recommendations on priorities. As stated in regulation 3.16 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning, "intergovernmental and expert bodies shall, when reviewing the relevant chapters of the proposed medium-term plan, recommend priorities among subprogrammes in their field of competence ...".

9. Notwithstanding its call for increased involvement of intergovernmental bodies, the Advisory Committee reiterates the view expressed in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 that the increased role of these bodies "should in no way infringe upon the existing procedures for decision-making as set forth in the budgeting process approved by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213" (A/44/7, para. 72).

10. As mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the Advisory Committee had before it a consolidated summary of comments and recommendations made by Member States and intergovernmental bodies on the draft introduction to the medium-term plan as contained in document A/45/279. Because the comments/recommendations have not been organized along programme lines, the document does not facilitate consideration of the plan. While recognizing that this summary has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/219, the Committee believes that the document should be significantly improved in the future, both in form and content.

11. The Advisory Committee notes that the structure of the proposed medium-term plan reflects an effort to streamline the document: major programmes total 10, under which there are 45 programmes (including one on African economic recovery, development and transformation, requested by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination during its consideration of the plan) and 257 subprogrammes. The

Committee welcomes the progress achieved in streamlining the plan and reiterates that this should not be construed as reducing United Nations activities.

12. Notwithstanding this structural improvement, the Advisory Committee believes that many more structural refinements are necessary. In the Committee's opinion, the plan must be simplified and shortened if it is to be of use; the verbosity, repetitiveness and length of the current submission undermine its usefulness.

13. In addition to overall streamlining of the plan, the Advisory Committee also believes that thought should be given to differentiating between the presentation of support and substantive programmes. In this connection, the Committee questions the rationale for organizing the support programmes (Major programmes IX and X, programmes 39-44) in the same format as followed for the substantive programmes. Specifically, the Committee questions the necessity of including a general orientation and overall strategy section for these programmes. In the Committee's opinion, the format of these programmes should be greatly simplified and structured according to the objectives to be attained and the activities necessary to achieve those objectives. In this connection, the Committee notes that regulation 3.6 of the rules governing programme planning stipulates that "the plan shall be presented by programme and objective, and not by organizational unit"; however, rule 103.6 states that "for servicing activities the format of the medium-term plan proposals shall be by organizational unit and by function ...". In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, this has led to repetitiveness and duplication in narratives. Presentation of major programmes IX and X should therefore be reviewed and refined.

14. Another issue which needs to be addressed relates to the coverage of the medium-term plan. Regulation 3.5 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning stipulates that "the plan shall cover all activities, substantive and servicing, including those to be financed partially or fully from extrabudgetary resources". In the Committee's opinion, some questions arise *vis-à-vis* the feasibility of implementing this regulation as formulated, and in this connection, it reiterates the view expressed in paragraph 25 of its report (A/43/626):

"With regard to extrabudgetary resources, the Committee notes that there are two types: those under full custody of and administration by the Secretary-General, such as trust funds and special accounts, and those that are directly administered by semi-autonomous entities such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (Habitat). In the case of those semi-autonomous entities whose programmes and priorities are approved by their respective governing bodies, questions arise as to the extent that programmes and priorities so approved dovetail with those included in the United Nations medium-term plan."

15. Without prejudice to its observations above, the Advisory Committee also points out that, in any event, the regulations and rules governing programme planning state that "where an entire subprogramme, or an entire identifiable segment thereof, is expected to be financed from extrabudgetary resources this

shall be indicated" (rule 103.3). The lack of such indications in the proposed plan will, in the Committee's view, hamper future evaluations on the implementation of the plan, particularly in respect to the substantive programmes. Consequently, the Committee believes that further action is required in this connection.

16. Rule 103.3 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning also states, inter alia, that "at the major programme level, the medium-term plan shall include indicative estimates of its resource implications ...; the estimates shall include assumptions on the availability of extrabudgetary funds". The Advisory Committee notes that the plan does not contain estimates of human or financial resources. Given the six-year cycle, the question also arises whether, in fact, estimates of this nature can be meaningful and realistic. Related to this question is that of the linkage between the medium-term plan and the programme budgets. As approved, the plan is supposed to serve as the framework for the formulation of the programme budgets and the priorities approved in the plan are supposed to guide the allocation of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources. In the opinion of the Committee, the extent to which the plan serves these purposes is unclear and needs to be addressed by the Secretary-General and Member States.

17. The matter of evaluation deserves mention in any discussion of the medium-term plan. If a meaningful plan is to be conceived, evaluation must be undertaken in such a way as to impact on the preparation of both the plan and programme budgets. Given the problem of non-synchronized evaluation cycles, the Advisory Committee queries the extent to which evaluation results have, in fact, influenced the current submission. Furthermore, the very concept of evaluation itself and what it entails, is not, in the opinion of the Committee, uniformly appreciated and applied. In this connection, the Committee notes from the Secretary-General's report on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/45/204, para. 46), that "evaluation has still not been completely accepted as a management tool", and has not, "for the most part, been systematically and routinely integrated into the decision-making and management process". Furthermore, "basic terminology, concepts and procedures for programme planning and evaluation, however, have not been applied consistently or, in some cases, have not been sufficiently understood, by programme managers". The Secretary-General also notes that "further refinement is required for evaluation methodologies" and that the lessons derived from evaluations "need to be applied if the findings are to serve any purpose, whether at the levels of implementation, monitoring, preparation of programme budgets or formulation of the medium-term plan". The need for intergovernmental action on recommendations resulting from evaluation findings is also required "in order to reinforce the effective use of evaluation findings" (*ibid.*, para. 47).

18. Related to the question of evaluation is that of programme performance. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, reports such as those contained in the Secretary-General's report A/45/218 and Add.1 on the programme performance for the biennium 1988-1989 are of little value in preparing subsequent programme budgets/medium-term plans (see paras. 22 and 23 below); moreover the very timing of their submission does not permit them to be useful in the preparation of a subsequent programme budget given the budgetary cycle.

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19. As provided for in rule 103.5 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning, the medium-term plan proposals for the entire plan, including common and conference services, have been submitted to the Advisory Committee. The common and conference "support" services, are covered in chapters 39-44 of the plan. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that a number of issues touched on in these chapters will be the subject of progress reports by the Secretary-General, e.g. the IMIS and optical disc projects, the matter of common and joint services at Vienna and the question of extrabudgetary financing. The Secretary-General will also report on a number of matters related to peace-keeping such as economies of scale, start-up problems, the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items, the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations and the establishment of the support account for peace-keeping operations, matters which are mentioned in chapters 42 and 43 of the plan. The Committee will make specific observations in respect of these items in the context of its consideration of the Secretary-General's reports.

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the implementation
of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/45/226)

20. As stated in paragraphs 6 and 7, this report has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/200 A and "provides detailed information concerning implementation of each recommendation of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts through 31 December 1989 ...". In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's statements that "it is evident that the programme of administrative reforms initiated in 1986 has been largely implemented," (para. 8) and that "the lengthy political process that culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 41/213 and subsequent resolutions has largely achieved its purpose" (para. 258). Accordingly, "the time has come for the Organization to consolidate itself and to move forward ... on the basis of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 ..." (para. 259). At the same time, the Secretary-General acknowledges that the task is not over and that "further changes may be required to enable the Organization to adapt itself to respond fully and effectively to new and emerging issues". In this connection, he notes that "reform is not a finite process, nor an end itself, but implies a constant review of the functioning of the Organization in relation to its objectives" (para. 260).

21. In the view of the Advisory Committee, enhanced efficiency and effectiveness will be compromised if efforts to streamline cumbersome administrative, personnel and budgetary procedures are not redoubled. The Board of Auditors has discussed a number of these procedures in its report A/45/5, which are mentioned in the Committee's related report A/45/570 and Corr.1. In the preceding paragraphs, the Committee has also drawn attention to the need to further improve the consultative process as well as the evaluation process; these issues are discussed in parts V and VI of the Secretary-General's analytical report. The Committee's observations in respect of the outline, and contingency fund, also discussed in the analytical report, will be submitted in the context of its consideration of the Secretary-General's reports on these subjects.

Programme performance of the United Nations for the
biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1)

22. The Advisory Committee discussed this report with representatives of the Secretary-General at its spring 1990 session. The Committee notes that "the present report provides only a quantitative picture of the status of output delivery during the biennium 1988-1989" and does not cover some activities of the Organization nor attempt to "assess the quality and relevance of the outputs produced". Outputs which are very different in terms of their call on resources are also treated equally. The Secretary-General goes on to say that "such limitations are intrinsic to the exercise and could be overcome only through fundamental changes in the conception of monitoring and, indeed, of the planning, programming and budgeting process" (para. 17).

23. In view of these limitations, the Committee questions the usefulness of the present report to Member States and believes that issuance of further programme performance reports should be suspended pending a resolution of the underlying methodological difficulties.



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Agenda items 23 and 35
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement made on 9 October 1990 by the representative of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the massacre by the Israeli occupation forces of Palestinian civilians on the esplanade of the Al-Aqsa holy mosque.

I should be grateful if you would have this text and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 23 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amar BENDJAMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement made on 9 October 1990 by the spokesman for the
Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs

It is with grief and respect that the entire Algerian nation pays tribute to the memory of the latest martyrs to the Palestinian cause, the innocent Palestinians who were victims of the organized killing at the Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holy place of Islam.

This is a premeditated killing, a source of revulsion to the Arab and Islamic peoples, making yet another claim upon the conscience of mankind in the long series of crimes committed daily by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people in its occupied homeland.

To accuse the victims of the Al-Quds carnage of trying to deflect attention from the Gulf crisis is to display utter cynicism and arrogance.

The fact that the endeavour to eliminate the Palestinian people has been able to proceed with impunity is due in part to the proven inability of the Arab world to resolve its differences and to close ranks in defence of the sacred Palestinian cause. It is also due to the Zionist leaders' belief that they can count on the passivity or powerlessness of one part of the international community, while retaining confidence in the benign complacency or powerful support of another part of that community.

Algeria urges the Security Council to mobilize United Nations efforts and resources to protect Palestinian civilians as a matter of the utmost urgency and, once and for all, to ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

At a time when the emergence of a new international political order based on co-operation within the United Nations to promote the right of States and of peoples has become the focus of attention, at precisely that point in time when the United Nations is making intensive efforts to ensure the implementation of the resolutions relating to the Gulf crisis, the Al-Quds tragedy affords the Security Council the opportunity to give tangible proof of a common, sincere and resolute will to ensure that respect for international law will prevail universally and without exception.



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Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar on the tragic developments in the Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Hassan Ali Hussain AL-NI'MAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

A/45/619
S/21864
English
Page 2

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

The State of Qatar has condemned the odious crime committed by Israel near the Al-Aqsa mosque, which has caused dozens of deaths and wounded among the Palestine people from the bullets of the army of occupation. The State of Qatar has described this crime as a massacre which has no other justification but the blood thirst of the Israelis, who do not hesitate to kill unarmed civilians and innocent worshippers.

An authorized source of the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denounced the profanation of the Al-Aqsa mosque by the Israeli occupation authorities and the crime committed on its sacred soil, which constitutes a clear challenge to the Islamic world and a flagrant violation of international conventions, customs and moral principles.

The same source has recalled the constant position of the State of Qatar as regards the Palestinian question and the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people and has expressed its support for this people's struggle to return to its land and to recover all its legitimate rights.



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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

The following correction has been requested by the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations:

Page 1

In the first paragraph, for in the Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem, read in occupied Jerusalem.



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THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of
Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, the text of the statement, of the three components of the Cambodian National Resistance, dated 10 October 1990 (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement of the three components of the Cambodian National
Resistance dated 10 October 1990

1. Over the past nearly 12 years, the Cambodian people and nation have suffered under the Vietnamese aggression and occupation.

During those 12 years, the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations General Assembly have made every possible effort in trying to seek a comprehensive political settlement to put an end to the Vietnamese aggression and occupation in Cambodia. Everyone knows how the Vietnamese authorities have tried hard to thwart the efforts of ASEAN and to reject the United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

2. The world community has also seen that at the Bangkok meeting, from 17 to 19 September 1990, at the United Nations General Assembly, Hun Sen and Viet Nam have tried hard to raise new conditions so as to destroy the framework document of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the Jakarta Joint Statement of 10 September 1990 and Security Council resolution 668 (1990) of 20 September 1990. Their main attempt is to block the election of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the Chairman of the Supreme National Council.

3. Hun Sen himself has of late gone so far as to put the blame on Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for hindering the peace process. That is the last straw showing Hun Sen's and Viet Nam's deceitful manoeuvres.

4. The three components of the Cambodian National Resistance would like to reiterate their full and wholehearted support that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk shall be the Chairman of the Supreme National Council, as has been alluded to by the framework document of the five permanent members of the Security Council and reiterated by their Foreign Ministers on 28 September 1990, the Jakarta Joint Statement of 10 September 1990, and Security Council resolution 668 (1990).

5. The three components of the Cambodian National Resistance would also like to call on all the parties to the Cambodia conflict to implement in good faith without delay the framework document of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Jakarta Joint Statement of 10 September 1990, and Security Council resolution 668 (1990).

6. The three components of the Cambodian National Resistance call for an urgent meeting of the resumed session of the 12 members of the Supreme National Council in order to elect the Chairman of the Supreme National Council.

Bangkok could be the venue of the meeting, if it is convenient to all the Cambodian parties, and approved by the Royal Thai Government, with the possible presence of the Co-Chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

They would like to point out once again that the election of the Chairman of the Supreme National Council should not be linked to other matters and should not be a bargaining issue. If one party sought the right to modify the documents, others would do the same. This would certainly in the end amount to renegotiating the text and would never be able to put an end to the Vietnamese war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia.

In their memorandum of 27 September 1990, the three components of the Cambodian National Resistance have already explained their stance on this matter.

(Signed) SON SANN

(Signed) KHIEU SAMPHAN

(Signed) NORODOM RANARIDDH



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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General pursuant to Assembly resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, which proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990, and adopted the International Framework of Action. The report contains information on the implementation of the resolution, including the organizational arrangements made by the Secretary-General, and information on the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in case of disasters.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
II. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE	4 - 87	3
A. Policy measures at the national level	5 - 27	3
B. Action taken by the United Nations system	28 - 74	7
C. Action taken by the scientific and technical communities	75 - 79	18
D. Organizational arrangements	80 - 83	19
E. Financial arrangements	84 - 87	21
III. STATUS OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS AND CONVENTIONS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF DISASTER	88 - 89	22

Annexes

I. List of national committees and/or focal points for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	23
II. Calendar of Decade-related events in 1990-1991	36
III. Activity matrix for the Decade	40
IV. Examples of UNDRO project-related contributions to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	41
V. Status of international protocols and conventions	45

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction the General Assembly proclaimed the Decade beginning on 1 January 1990; adopted the International Framework of Action for the Decade; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the resolution, including the organizational arrangements made for the Decade, and on the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster.

2. The present progress report provides information on actions taken as at 20 September 1990. It is intended that this information will be updated and supplemented verbally as appropriate at the time of General Assembly consideration of the report. The Assembly intended the implementation of the resolution to be funded from extrabudgetary resources and, to this end, a trust fund was established by the Secretary-General on 1 January 1990. There has therefore been a link between implementation and the availability of resources to the Trust Fund. The only unearmarked contribution received to date has been from Italy (\$450,000 in May 1990).

3. The International Framework of Action for the Decade provides for policy measures to be taken at the national level, action to be taken by the United Nations system and for organizational arrangements during the Decade, to include a special high-level council, a scientific and technical committee, a secretariat and financial arrangements.

II. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF ACTION FOR THE DECADE

4. The International Framework of Action for the Decade calls for measures and actions to be taken for the implementation of the Decade. The following list includes an outline of policy measures and activities that have been taken at different levels so far as part of the implementation process for the Decade.

A. Policy measures at the national level

5. The International Framework in its section B, paragraph 3 (b), addressed to Governments, envisaged the establishment of national committees. As at 20 September 1990, 71 Governments had informed the Secretary-General that they had established national committees or focal points for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals of the Decade. A list of such committees and focal points is contained in annex I.

6. As a whole, two groups of activities at the national level have hitherto emerged:

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(a) Several countries have taken steps to improve awareness of their vulnerability to natural disasters and are undertaking national mitigation policies as well as specific programmes designed to reduce this vulnerability;

(b) A number of countries that have strong scientific and technological capabilities to assist in disaster mitigation, including some that have limited domestic vulnerability, are concentrating their efforts towards international co-operation. National groups and other Decade participants have taken the initiative of organizing policy discussions, scientific symposia and other meetings to discuss disaster mitigation plans and improve the understanding of the potential of preventive policies. Some of the current events are listed in the calendar in annex II.

7. The new emphasis called for by the Decade towards actions to be taken in advance of disasters, as compared to previous essentially ex post facto response to disasters, is beginning to emerge and a number of countries have indicated that disaster preparedness and response encompasses for them disasters and emergency situations of various kinds, natural or owing in part or wholly to human action. Some countries are reviewing the level of resources committed to disaster relief and are considering the possibility of investing more in disaster prevention.

8. A major priority identified, particularly in developing countries, by national committees and focal points, and through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representatives and other United Nations field representatives, has been the need for central substantive guidance for disaster mitigation policies. In addition, there is considered to be a need for specific programmes focusing on the application of scientific and technological knowledge and on public awareness. There is the expectation that necessary advice will be provided by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade, which is envisaged in the resolution as having a programme development side.

9. Highlights and examples of national and regional Decade activities that are known to the Secretariat include a number of initiatives and events.

Algeria

10. Countries that had recently suffered from major natural disasters have shown an interest in analysing further the causes of their devastating impact. For instance, in Algeria, the 1989 earthquake was analysed at an on-site workshop (Tipaza, February 1990) in order to provide scientifically and technologically valid guidelines for reconstruction to local authorities, entrepreneurs and builders.

Australia

11. Australia already has strong preparedness mechanisms at the federal and State levels and is considering the adoption of preventive policies; however, they will have to be evaluated from a cost/benefit viewpoint, taking into account Australia's particular geographic situation as well as population distribution. Australia will concentrate on the south-west Pacific and south-east Asia regions in international activities for the Decade.

Bangladesh

12. The fifth country programme prepared by UNDP will include disaster management as one of its major development themes. In January 1990 a planning session was held in order to draw up a programme of international support for the Government. In the forthcoming planning cycle, the Planning Commission will work towards determining how to factor the impact of disasters more effectively into the planning process.

13. One of the main projects under way is the World Bank's Action Plan for Flood Control, which was presented at an international conference in London in December 1989. It will be implemented beginning in 1990. The plan is based on in-depth studies conducted by UNDP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), France and Japan.

Caribbean

14. In the Caribbean region activities have been built on existing projects. In particular, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)-managed Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project has stimulated the establishment of individual national committees for the Decade in its member countries. To this end, a regional workshop on public awareness was held in March 1990 and information material developed and disseminated.

China

15. Several proposals for action have been developed through the national committee for the Decade and the Academy of Sciences. They are aimed at the provision of modern technology and additional resources for projects designed to address specific disaster vulnerability throughout the country. Natural disaster mitigation has been declared national policy and integrated into the economic planning process, in line with the guidelines approved by the General Assembly.

16. A delegation from the Chinese national committee visited the Decade secretariat and outlined China's commitment and plans for it, which include the establishment of an integrated disaster management centre, a typhoon disaster reduction project in Hainan, flood disaster mitigation on the Jang Tse river and an earthquake disaster reduction project in Shin Yang region.

Federal Republic of Germany 1/

17. In planning its activities for the Decade the Federal Republic of Germany took the initiative of consulting several countries and institutions that have been active in the Decade, including the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Thailand, Australia, Japan, the United States of America and Canada, in order to discuss possible ways of co-ordinating activities. The objective of the part of the mission to North America was to develop mutual understanding among North American and European interests in the Decade and in disaster management and to exchange concepts and information on implementation practices.

18. A similar mission was undertaken to the Nordic countries, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France in order to initiate an exchange of views at the European level and to discuss policies and activities relevant to the Decade. An understanding was reached to enhance the activities of the national committees to serve both as focal points for the improvement of awareness of the Decade at the national level and as partners in a dialogue with other countries to bring about closer co-operation. In this respect the mission concluded that the European Community and other organizations should be approached for more effective participation in the Decade.

19. The Federal Republic of Germany extended financial support to some targeted activities within the Decade, such as public awareness activities in the Caribbean, an international workshop to discuss telecommunications and disaster management and the UNDP/UNDRO training strategy, as well as the development of disaster information systems by UNDRO in furtherance of the existing United Nations International Emergency Network (UNINET) system.

Italy

20. Italy's scientific community has warmly endorsed the Decade and has developed a five-year applied research plan. In October 1990, jointly with the United States National Science Foundation, Italy's Council for National Research will hold an International Workshop at Perugia, sponsored by the secretariat of the Decade, to discuss one of the main issues before the Decade, namely, the gap between scientific prediction of natural hazards and their actual perception by responsible authorities and the general public. This is an essential question to be solved if scientific and technological knowledge is to be applied effectively to the reduction of disaster vulnerability.

21. At the parliamentary level, government members, policy makers and representatives of the financial and private sectors jointly discussed in April 1990 the availability of modern technology for application to disaster mitigation.

Japan

22. Japan has undertaken the preparation of plans for international co-operation for disaster mitigation based on the positive experience it has gained over the past years, which makes it one of the countries better prepared to withstand major disasters. Discussions with the Decade secretariat were held with a view to the loan of an earthquake engineer in order to strengthen the secretariat's expertise.

23. At the end of September 1990, the Government of Japan will hold a major international conference on the Decade and future prospects.

Mexico

24. Decade functions in Mexico correspond to the policies and activities of the Government in civil protection matters and are based on an integrated approach for prevention and relief in respect of natural disasters. The Civil Protection

Department co-operates closely with the Civil Protection Directorate and the National Disaster Prevention Centre, the latter being especially responsible for preventive analysis and action.

United States of America

25. Currently, at the federal level, Decade activities are being co-ordinated and a plan is being prepared by a sub-committee of the Committee on Earth Sciences under the overview of the President's Science Advisor. Concurrently, the National Academy of Sciences has established a national committee with broad-based participation from all relevant sectors. In certain particularly vulnerable areas, mitigation policies have been implemented on a priority basis. The effectiveness of these policies was demonstrated in California by the capacity to withstand the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. High awareness, strong preparedness and effective prevention measures were key elements. In the early phase of the Decade, the United States has continued its direct participation in the international mechanism through secondment in succession of two senior scientific experts to the secretariat of the Decade.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

26. The disastrous 1988 earthquake in Armenia added emphasis to the strong commitment by the Soviet Union to the Decade since its preparatory phase. In this connection, UNDRO, in 1990, undertook a major study on the Armenian earthquake, with a financial contribution from the Federal Republic of Germany. 1/ The study has been published recently. The Decade committee is well integrated into the country's institutional framework. Scientific and technological knowledge is identified and disseminated by means, for example, of joint USSR/UNDP/UNDRO training seminars held each year with the participation of eminent personalities from throughout the world.

Vanuatu

27. As a vulnerable country in the south-west Pacific Ocean, where geographic conditions and enormous distances make the population particularly exposed to natural disaster threats, Vanuatu has initiated information activities to increase public awareness of ways and means to reduce its vulnerability to disasters, particularly tropical cyclones. Especially noteworthy are the efforts undertaken in preparing and disseminating information in a language and style that are understood easily at the local level. A tropical cyclone operations plan is in effect and in co-operation with other countries meteorological warnings are given special attention in their formulation and dissemination.

B. Action taken by the United Nations system

28. Section C of the International Framework of Action related to actions to be taken by the United Nations system. The attached activity matrix for the Decade (annex III), which was prepared during the preparatory phase, provides a synoptic view of the potential of each organization to contribute to the mitigation of various types of natural disasters. The Secretary-General, as requested by the

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General Assembly, has designated the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as the focal point for oversight and co-ordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system. In order to provide the Director-General with the means required to exercise his role, the Secretary-General has continued the United Nations Steering Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

29. The following paragraphs provide a succinct overview of the follow-up action by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

1. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

30. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat has an ongoing programme of research and training on disaster prevention implemented through the United Nations Nagoya Centre for Regional Development based on financial support from the Government of Japan. The Department's functions to provide technical assistance in a variety of fields, particularly those related to the geological environment, and development planning are relevant to disaster mitigation activities during the Decade. In particular, in line with the requirements of resolution 44/236, the Department is currently carrying out activities relevant to the Decade in the following developing countries and regions:

- (a) Bangladesh: One of the objectives of this project is the protection of the left bank of the Brahmaputra river from erosion resulting from strong currents, especially during floods;
- (b) China: The main objective of this project is to set up a national centre for flood control and to monitor the performance of high dams, using computer-based digital model and modern sensors;
- (c) Eastern Caribbean: Within the scope of a geothermal exploration project, an assessment of the volcanic hazard in the islands for Saint Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat and Saint Vincent, is currently being carried out;
- (d) India: One objective of this project is to study the dynamics of coastal and ocean environment with a view to mitigating the adverse effects of beach erosion caused by typhoon and monsoon surges.

2. Department of Public Information

31. The Department has prepared a number of specific steps. Resources have been obtained from the Government of Japan for a film on disaster mitigation, which is expected to be ready early in 1991. The Department has also made proposals for a logo for the Decade to provide international recognition and visual identity to it, for a brochure and a poster as well as other information tools.

32. The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1990 will be on 10 October. Celebrations, conferences and other events are planned by a number of Decade participants at the national level.

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3. United Nations Development Programme

33. In the Mediterranean region, the UNDP/UNDRO Project on Seismic Risk Reduction, which involves 21 countries, provides an example of inter-agency co-operation in addressing a regional vulnerability through the application of modern scientific and technological knowledge.

34. In the fifth programming cycle, in a number of countries, as mentioned above with regard to Bangladesh, disaster management, including relief and mitigation, will be incorporated as one of the development themes to be addressed in the context of the planning policy of the country concerned.

35. UNDP in co-operation with UNDRO is launching an ambitious effort to heighten awareness and improve the expertise of its staff in 50 of the most disaster-prone countries. A study by two prominent consultants in disaster management and training recommends targeting UNDP's resident representatives, who serve as UNDRO representatives in these countries, key staff of the United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Disaster Management Team, non-governmental organizations and so on.

36. A training curriculum and educational materials needed to support it will be developed globally, but adapted and implemented regionally through institutions such as, in Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO) Disaster Management Centre at Addis Ababa; in the Arab States and Europe, the Disaster Management Training Centre at Ankara; the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre at Bangkok for Asia and the Pacific; and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pan-American Health Organization.

37. The Disaster Management Center of the University of Wisconsin (United States of America) will provide technical support to UNDP.

38. The United Nations resident co-ordinators and the field representatives of the United Nations system have a specific role to play in support of national mitigation policies and of their integration into national development plans. In a number of countries (such as Bangladesh), disaster management has already been incorporated as one of the themes to be taken into account in the preparation of the next (fifth) country programming cycle.

4. United Nations Environment Programme

39. A large majority of UNEP activities are directly relevant to the Decade and its potential contributions are likely to be considerable.

40. Of particular relevance is the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and decision 15/23 of the fifteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP. This decision requests the Executive Director of UNEP, *inter alia*, to arrange for an external evaluation of the plan to be conducted for the results to be presented in time for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

41. Closely linked to the problem of desertification are those related to land degradation, deforestation, water resources and climate change. Activities in these and other areas also continue to be pursued bearing in mind the objective and goals of the Decade.

5. Economic Commission for Europe

42. At its forty-fifth session, and in response to General Assembly resolution 44/236, ECE adopted decision G (45) on its contribution to the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, including earthquake prediction, which:

(a) Urged the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology to take a final decision at their eighteenth session on the convening in 1990 of an ad hoc group meeting to formulate proposals on the follow-up action to the Lisbon Seminar on Prediction of Earthquakes (November 1988);

(b) Welcomed the willingness of the Government of the Soviet Union to submit to the next session of the Senior Advisers a proposal on convening an international symposium on earthquake prediction, monitoring facilities and techniques to promote joint efforts in a co-ordinated way in this area;

(c) Called upon the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning to review its programme of work to identify ways in which it could undertake activities relevant to the tasks of the Decade, in close liaison with the secretariat of the Decade;

(d) Urged the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology to consider the adequacy of existing intergovernmental co-operation in the ECE region on earthquake prediction;

(e) Requested the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the implementation of this decision.

43. In response to paragraph (c) of the decision, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, at its fifty-first session, on 11 to 14 September 1990, considered a proposal for the inclusion of a new programme element in its programme of work on the "Development of international co-operation in, and assessment of the results of, research and development work on construction in seismic regions". The Committee agreed that its Working Party on Building and its experts on human settlement problems in southern Europe pursue the matter.

44. In response to paragraphs (a) and (d) of the decision and on the basis of notes prepared by the secretariat, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, at their eighteenth session, on 17 to 21 September 1990, examined the possibility of convening an ad hoc expert group meeting and, possibly, the organization of an international symposium on earthquake prediction in the Soviet Union, and will consider the adequacy of existing intergovernmental co-operation in the ECE region on earthquake prediction. This will be done in consultation with the Council of Europe, which is also examining similar initiatives.

6. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

45. Although ECLAC had concentrated particularly on analysing the costs and the impact of natural disasters on economic and social development, in 1988 it initiated specific activities in the natural disaster sector under a project for "Natural Disaster Prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean", supported by Italy, seeking (a) to improve and expand hydro-meteorological forecasting systems and facilities in the countries of the region; and (b) to develop a uniform methodology for the assessment of damages following natural disasters. It is expected that the project will result in:

(a) A thorough analysis of existing arrangements and capabilities concerning hydro-meteorological forecasting;

(b) Proposals for and agreements on: (i) improvement of human resources in hydro-meteorological forecasting; (ii) selection of river basins where design of hydro-meteorological forecasting systems are to be prepared in a second project stage; (iii) increased technical co-operation among the countries of the region on the above-mentioned subjects;

(c) A manual describing uniform and comprehensive damage assessment methodology.

46. Activities implemented include an inter-agency letter of agreement with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); a regional field survey of flood forecasting capabilities and subsequent proposals for improved flood forecasting systems.

47. A proposal has been presented to Italy for further activities in the future.

7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

48. ESCAP has established a task force for the Decade and, in particular, the work programme of its Natural Resources Division has been designed to take into consideration the requirements of the Decade. Activities already carried out include flood prevention programmes and assessment of national preparedness status in the ESCAP region. A number of workshops are planned, including one jointly organized with UNDRO and other relevant bodies. It should be noted that, within the task force, all of ESCAP's concerned divisions participate in various ways in the planning of activities for the Decade.

8. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

49. In keeping with its mandate and with pertinent decisions of the Commission for Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) has kept up the pace of its assistance to Governments in various aspects of pre-disaster planning, preparedness and mitigation as they affect human settlements. Of these activities, which have

involved the three operational arms of the Centre - Research and Development, Technical Co-operation and Information Dissemination - the following may be highlighted:

- (a) UNCHS has undertaken several important missions recently to major disaster-affected areas. At the direct request of the Governments of the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR, the Centre recently fielded a technical mission to the region to explore the possibilities of assistance to those Governments in tackling the human settlements problems created by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. This is in addition to the Centre's full participation in the United Nations inter-agency efforts to assist them. UNCHS is also sending a mission, at the request of the Government of the Philippines, to formulate recommendations on the reconstruction of the earthquake-affected areas;
- (b) UNCHS and the World Bank have developed a joint project entitled "Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Metropolitan Areas (Phase 1)". The project recently became operational. Habitat is also discussing with UNDR0 the development of a joint project on guidelines for planning and management of natural disasters;
- (c) UNCHS has published an account of its technical co-operation experience in this field under the title "Natural Disasters and Human Settlements" and is currently preparing a manual on "Planning and Management for Disaster Reduction";
- (d) UNCHS has also participated in a number of important colloquia and symposia in this area, including the Colloquium on the Environment and Natural Disaster Management sponsored by the World Bank in June 1990, at which UNCHS presented a paper on "Integrated Planning for Mitigation of Natural and Technological Disasters". UNCHS was also involved, as a sponsoring organization, in organizing a colloquium at the Disaster Management Centre of the Oxford Polytechnic in the United Kingdom. The theme of the colloquium, which took place from 2 to 5 September 1990, was "Disaster and the Small Dwelling - Defining the Agenda for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction".

9. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

50. Since the adoption of the Decade UNDR0 has provided its secretariat with its expertise and has, *inter alia*, assisted in the identification or evaluation of projects for possible inclusion in the Decade's programme. UNDR0 has, in addition, provided some organizational and administrative support in the fields of data management and library services, registry services, communication and public information.

51. Apart from support to the secretariat for the Decade, UNDR0 has stepped up the application of the Decade's concept in its own disaster mitigation activities. Regional and country-level co-operation, for example in the South Pacific and China, has led to a number of specific project proposals that take into account the need for the integration of disaster mitigation into national development. In this context the co-operation with UNDP has been further intensified and is specially manifest in the implementation of a joint UNDR0/UNDP global disaster management

strategy and the initiation of a specific joint training programme for this purpose. UNDRO has paid specific attention to sectoral issues in disaster management, such as communications, information management, search and rescue, and non-governmental organization co-operation. In addition, UNDRO has conducted or planned workshops on these issues to assist in setting guidelines for Decade-related developments in those fields. In the aftermath of major natural disasters, Decade-related demonstration projects have been implemented or scheduled in the form of an awareness-raising programme in the Caribbean and workshop on low-cost seismic resistant construction in Algeria. Equally, major natural disasters like the earthquakes in Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have been analysed to develop guidelines for disaster response management and mitigation.

52. In March 1990 UNDRO held, jointly with the Public Service Satellite Consortium, a United States-based non-governmental organization, the International Conference on the Use of Telecommunications and Remote-Sensing Technology for Disaster Relief, Preparedness and Prevention. The meeting was sponsored by the Decade and financed through a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany; 1/ it brought together equipment manufacturers, service providers and experts from the international disaster management community, which formed a broad and innovative discussion group. The Conference unanimously endorsed a set of recommendations that would provide direction during the Decade for disaster communication planning. A list of additional activities, provided by UNDRO, appears in annex IV.

10. World Food Programme

53. WFP has set up an internal management steering committee for the Decade under the chairmanship of the Assistant Executive Director for the purpose of developing a systematic programme of action in disaster preparedness, prevention and reduction. The programme has now been assigned to WFP country offices for action. In disaster-prone countries, WFP field staff have been requested to keep close contact with national Decade committees and WFP missions have been instructed to report on activities within existing projects and to design new activities with direct bearing on the environment, disaster preparedness, prevention and reduction. An example of WFP's interest is Project China 4483Q, which involves repair and reinforcement of fishponds damaged by typhoons in Shaoxing, Shangyu and Cixi counties, designed to provide structures that withstand the effects of future typhoons. The project will be monitored by the Chinese national committee for the Decade.

54. In 1989 and 1990 to date, 11 WFP projects have been approved in as many countries, in the field of land development and improvement including land reclamation, irrigation, drainage, flood control and soil conservation; four projects have been approved in the forestry sector, including afforestation, reforestation and watershed management and associated soil conservation works. The value of these projects, where activities within the framework of the Decade can be estimated at 50 per cent of the total is \$231 million. WFP has been active for more than a quarter of a century in providing support in the field of disaster prevention and rehabilitation in the aftermath of emergencies. By the end of 1989, WFP was assisting 155 projects with components directly related to disaster

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preparedness, prevention and reduction, with a total value of resources from WFP of nearly \$1.3 billion, more than one third of all WFP development assistance.

11. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

55. FAO has actively participated in the arrangements for the Decade ever since preparations began in 1988. In accordance with resolution 44/236, FAO activities relevant to the Decade include:

- (a) The setting up of an informal inter-departmental group for the preparation of documents and active participation in the United Nations Steering Committee and the Inter-Agency Working Group;
- (b) FAO representatives and other field staff are actively participating in disaster management teams and assisting the national committees;
- (c) A disaster preparedness component will be included in the design of each development project;
- (d) The organization continues to strengthen national early warning and food securing programmes, as well as its own Global and Information Early Warning System, including remote sensing and data transmission (Artemis and Diana systems);
- (e) FAO is leading a regional and international campaign for the control and eradication of screwworm in North Africa. The Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (FAO/SECNA) has recently been established. The Centre collaborates with the Mexico/United States Screwworm Eradication Commission, the International Epizootiology Office, WHO, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other governmental and international donors;
- (f) FAO has continued its co-ordinating role during the past year through its Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO). It has, inter alia, provided regular information on the desert locust situation and special situation summaries on the grasshopper situation;
- (g) Regarding the field of relief and short-term recovery, FAO has responded during 1990, through its Office of Special Relief Operations, by providing recovery inputs to several countries affected by floods and cyclones at a total cost of \$977,000.

12. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

56. In the first year of the Decade, UNESCO has continued disaster-related activities such as scientific reconnaissance missions after the Iranian and Philippine earthquakes, during which it provided assistance and equipment for the analysis of seismological data. UNESCO has prepared several proposals for new project activities under the Decade, including a volcanic early warning system

based on space technology and the establishment of the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology at Tehran. IDNDR plans were also formulated based on ongoing activities, such as the Balkan Earthquake Risk Reduction Network and a Tsunami Warning System in the South Pacific. In 1990 UNESCO organized a regional seismological assembly for Africa and launched a project to establish a seismological network in East Africa as a concerted activity jointly with several international bodies.

13. World Health Organization

57. Subsequent to the forty-second World Health Assembly's endorsement of the Decade during the first months of 1990 extensive consultation with WHO technical divisions, regional offices and collaborating centres resulted in the development of a global programme for WHO involvement in the Decade. This was subsequently accepted during the forty-third World Health Assembly, as one component of the Director-General's report. A more detailed action document for 1991-1993 outlining financial requirements has been prepared and is now being reviewed before clearance and discussion with potential donors.

58. Other organizational activities related to the Decade include preparations for World Health Day 1991, to be held on 7 April. Actions in support of next year's World Health Day theme, "Disasters", include a poster, information kit, children's art competition and video emphasizing the health aspects of disaster preparedness.

59. With respect to continued development of WHO policy and strategy for the Decade, an expert advisory panel for emergency relief operations will be convened in March 1991. One of the terms of reference proposed by the Steering Committee for this body is to determine the direction and scope of WHO's role in the Decade.

60. On a technical level, in early 1990 WHO finalized a set of nine Rapid Health Assessment Protocols as guidelines for a range of different types of emergencies. These have been distributed to national health workers, WHO, non-governmental organizations and other relief organizations. Currently, a technical guideline for emergency immunization is being developed for use at country level. In September, an inter-country project to strengthen epidemic preparedness in Africa began. Regional training efforts in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia for WHO country representatives will now include an orientation to the Decade and its objectives.

61. In the last quarter of 1990, in collaboration with the Decade secretariat, WHO will explore possible sources of external support for the active implementation of its Decade programme during 1991.

14. International Telecommunication Union

62. ITU is currently at the stage of seeking financing for its Decade activities. The ITU Governing Council decided that the next World Telecommunication Day, 17 May 1991, would highlight the importance of telecommunications for safety of life, in accordance with resolution 44/236.

15. World Meteorological Organization

63. A large part of the ongoing activities of WMO, in particular its World Weather Watch and Hydrology and Water Resources Programmes, is aimed towards goals similar to those of the Decade. These activities will continue throughout and beyond the Decade. Therefore, several of these activities are being intensified and accelerated during the Decade.

64. The most important problem to be addressed by WMO as far as the Decade is concerned, with its 10-year span and emphasis on developing countries, lies in applying the existing technologies and procedures. The main thrust is therefore on:

(a) Filling the gaps in the implementation of the observing networks, telecommunications and data-processing facilities, as defined in the World Weather Watch Plan, that are required for establishing or upgrading warning systems;

(b) Promoting, initiating or accelerating action on improved response to warnings to ensure that they are used effectively;

(c) Implementing risk assessment, particularly as needed for disaster prevention measures;

(d) Improving public information, education and awareness.

65. In many developing countries the two great impediments to such improvements at national level in the near term are lack of knowledge and expertise in the technology concerned; and lack of funds to install, operate and maintain systems using existing technology and procedures. The basic requirements to overcome these impediments are technical co-operation activities with emphasis on technology transfer and/or institution building, provision of equipment and facilities, and human resources development.

66. As its first step with regard to special projects for the Decade, WMO has developed plans for three relatively low-cost projects geared specifically to the goals of the Decade. These should be very cost-effective and have a significant impact at both international and national levels. The three projects are: tropical cyclone warning system for the south-west Indian Ocean region; comprehensive risk assessment; and technology exchange for natural disasters.

67. The WMO secretariat has actively participated at all levels in developing plans for the Decade and a WMO expert has been seconded to assist in the work of the Decade secretariat.

68. World Meteorological Day is celebrated each year on 23 March. In 1990 the theme was "Natural Disaster Reduction: How Meteorological and Hydrological Services can Help"; special literature and other materials were distributed in three languages to countries for use on that occasion. A second brochure "The Role of the World Meteorological Organization in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction" has been prepared for the first International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on 10 October 1990.

69. A video on natural disasters and the prospects for their reduction was commissioned by WMO as part of its Decade-related activities and copies have been widely circulated in English and French. A special brochure on WMO's role in the Decade has also been printed.

16. World Bank

70. In June 1990 in Washington, the World Bank convened a colloquium on the environment and natural disaster management, which analysed the link between environmental degradation and natural disaster vulnerability, and considered sustainable, environmentally based strategies to minimize risk. The ability of societies to organize and cope with potentially slow-acting but progressive disasters, such as sea level rise or drought arising from global climate change, received special attention. A major emphasis of the discussions was on ways of improving resilience in disaster-prone developing countries and to share the lessons that developed and developing countries have learned.

Disaster prevention and mitigation in metropolitan areas

71. A joint proposal by the World Bank and UNCHS (Habitat) was submitted for funding to UNDP. The objective of the proposed project is to help reduce the vulnerability to extreme events of metropolitan areas and to address the urgent need for a better understanding of disaster prevention and mitigation in disaster-prone developing countries.

Support for emergency recovery

72. The Bank has a long tradition of working with countries affected by natural disasters. In the past, the majority of emergency projects financed by the Bank were concerned with the welfare of victims and have focused on rebuilding infrastructure and productivity in the aftermath of disasters. More efforts are now being made to ensure preventive measures to protect future development efforts from falling victim to potential catastrophes and to preventing the environmental degradation that can augment and spark further natural disasters. In recent years the Bank has lent for emergency recovery in many countries (e.g., Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Nepal, Sudan, among others). Currently, a number of activities are being undertaken to assist countries that have suffered from major extreme events like the Philippines.

Case-studies on disaster management

73. A series of case-studies on disaster management were produced to cover issues raised by various types of extreme events in different regional contexts and to discuss the role of planning and management in disaster prevention and mitigation as well as in recovery situations.

74. Altogether, the information provided above indicates that members of the United Nations system have reacted positively to the call by the General Assembly in support of the Decade and have taken initial steps towards integrating disaster management into their operational activities. Of course, in the course of the Decade, a coherent approach will have to be developed and adequate resources committed to disaster mitigation.

C. Action taken by the scientific and technical communities

75. Interest in the Decade, already at a considerable level before the adoption of resolution 44/236, increased substantially among the scientific and technological communities after the decision by the General Assembly to proclaim the Decade. The original proposal for such a broad effort to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters came from the scientific world. Scientists and engineers are strongly supportive of the Decade because they see the potential for reducing losses through application of existing knowledge.

1. International Council of Scientific Unions

76. At the global level, ICSU has taken several initiatives to stimulate concrete activities by its member associations and unions. A special committee of ICSU was set up for the Decade. The ICSU ad hoc group on natural disasters will meet at Sofia on 5 and 6 October 1990. The group will review the state of preparations for the Decade and develop proposals for future activities. This meeting is expected to build on a previous ICSU report prepared at Rabat from 30 January to 1 February 1989, which identified 13 initial scientific activities for the Decade.

2. International Association for Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior

77. IASPEI established a committee for the Decade at its Assembly at Istanbul in 1990. The first working meeting of the committee was held on 30 August-1 September 1990 at Lisbon. The committee plans to prepare a five-year plan for review at the IASPEI meeting at Vienna, and to forward the plan to ICSU, UNDRO and UNESCO for comment.

3. International Union of Geological Sciences

78. IUGS has also established a committee for the Decade. The IUGS news magazine Episodes will devote a special issue to it in late 1990.

79. It is expected that in the course of the first year of the Decade, considerable stimulus will be provided by the scientific community, first to spread the message of the Decade among its members and then to apply scientific knowledge to disaster mitigation activities. The technological community has similarly shown keen support for the concept of the Decade and, through the Union of International Technical Associations (UITA) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), is currently in the process of consulting its members; a preparatory workshop on specific technological know-how and on practical ways to improve the transfer and application of technical knowledge, such as earthquake engineering, flood management and other techniques, will be held in mid-October 1990. It is then expected that individual associations will follow up on their own, and in close consultation with the Decade secretariat.

D. Organizational arrangements

1. Special high-level council

80. Within the International Framework of Action, the Secretary-General was requested to establish a special high-level council, consisting of a limited number of internationally prominent persons. After a period of reflection and consultation regarding the constitution of the Council, which has endeavoured to ensure that consideration is given to a broad range of eminent persons, a stage has been reached where it is expected that establishment of the council will take place in the near future.

2. Scientific and Technical Committee

81. The International Framework of Action also requested the Secretary-General to establish a scientific and technical committee for the Decade. Extensive consultations have taken place since the beginning of the year with a view to the appointment of the committee by the Secretary-General. Important considerations have included the personal capacities, qualifications and availability of potential members, the need to provide for an adequate balance between disciplines in the natural and social sciences, and in geographical distribution and gender. As at the time of preparation of the present report, announcement by the Secretary-General of membership of the committee was expected on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1990, or shortly thereafter, were there to be delays in receiving the acceptance of the persons whose membership was envisaged.

3. Secretariat

82. The Decade secretariat has been established at Geneva, in close association with UNDRO. The Director has been appointed and took up his duties on 6 June 1990, initially on a pro tem basis awaiting concurrence from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the establishment of the post. Full-time staff presently includes a principal officer, who is a senior technical expert whose services are financed from a contribution by the Government of the United States and who is heading the Scientific and Technical Division of the secretariat, a senior officer, and two secretaries. In addition, WMO has seconded a senior official, initially on a part-time basis, to serve in the secretariat and this official will head the programme co-ordination efforts in the secretariat. WHO has provided an expert working, for the present, part time in the secretariat. The Government of Japan has taken concrete steps to provide an engineer. The Government of France has indicated that it would provide an expert. The League of Red Cross Societies is also considering the possibility of a personnel assignment to the secretariat. The Government of Canada has been approached about seconding a public information specialist, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany ^{1/} has been approached about the provision of a risk assessment specialist or junior professional officer. In addition, discussions with the World Bank have identified the need for expertise in the investment area and a request has been made to the World Bank to second an expert to the secretariat. Secondment of staff from UNEP to support efforts concerning the environmental aspects of natural disaster prevention has also been requested. Other secretariat staff will need to be provided with financing from the Trust Fund. In addition to the UNDRO administrative support referred to above, after nomination of the Director of the Decade secretariat in June 1990 the Executive Director of UNEP has kindly provided substantial staff support and services to the secretariat in an initial phase. The secretariat recently moved into adequate office space at the United Nations Annex at Petit Saconnex.

83. Liaison between the secretariat and UNDRO is maintained through continuing interaction between staff members, and regular meetings between the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Director of the Decade secretariat. UNDRO, in particular, has designated a member of its staff, who had formerly been made available directly to the secretariat during its initial phase, but was subsequently reassigned, as focal point for its own activities under the Decade and as its liaison representative to the secretariat. Many other organizations in the United Nations system have also named focal points and liaison representatives. More formal co-ordination among United Nations organizations is carried out through the Inter-agency Working Group at Geneva, on the Decade, previously chaired by the Deputy to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and which will now be chaired by the Director of the Decade secretariat, and through the United Nations system Steering Committee, chaired by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Development.

E. Financial arrangements

Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural
Disaster Reduction

84. The General Assembly recommended that the provision of extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the Decade from Governments, international organizations and other sources, including the private sector, be strongly encouraged. As requested by the Assembly, the Secretary-General established the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: contributions were received from Italy in May 1990 (\$450,000); earmarked payments for specific projects have been provided by Denmark (\$55,430) and the Federal Republic of Germany (\$139,133). The United States has paid \$100,000 as partial support for the secondment of a staff member to the secretariat. France has contributed FF 300,000 (\$57,886); Japan has pledged \$500,000 for 1990 further to its previous contributions in support of the preparatory phase. Early payment of contributions is particularly important in the present financial situation of the secretariat and the need to move ahead rapidly in implementing the resolution.

85. The question of resources calls for particular and urgent attention. It has been clearly indicated by the General Assembly that extrabudgetary resources should be provided for financing the implementation of the Decade to include the functioning of the various elements of the institutional arrangements, including the secretariat. To this end, the Assembly strongly encouraged voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources, including the private sector.

86. With the establishment of the bodies making up the international mechanism for the Decade and the preparation of mitigation plans by national committees and focal points, it has become urgent that adequate resources be provided by Governments and other potential donors to allow the beginning of a meaningful implementation process. It is clear that even were experts to be provided by Governments and organizations in accordance with current informal indications, an annual amount in the range of \$2.5 million would be required to enable the institutional structure, including the secretariat, to operate effectively, and substantial additional amounts would be needed to support project activity in the United Nations system. These amounts will be quantified upon proposal of such project activity by the scientific and technical committee. Eighteen months of substantive preparations, based on the United Nations, individual country activities and scientific and technical discussions in the international ad hoc group of experts, have generated a high level of expectations, as demonstrated by the highest ever number of countries co-sponsoring resolution 44/236. The considerable financial resources utilized in the preparatory phase should now be followed by proportionate resources for the implementation process. Such resources should be forthcoming soon, otherwise the momentum will be lost and commitments to disaster mitigation will fade.

87. In his note verbale of 28 March 1990, bringing the Decade to the attention of all Governments, the Secretary-General had called for the provision of resources

for it. At this stage, in presenting his first progress report on the steps to be taken for establishing the mechanism for the Decade, the Secretary-General renews and reiterates the request for voluntary contributions, as called for by the General Assembly.

III. STATUS OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOLS AND CONVENTIONS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF DISASTER

88. The General Assembly also requested that information be provided on the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster. A limited number of countries have replied to a note verbale by the Secretary-General requesting such information and their replies are summarized in annex V.

89. Given the limited number of countries that have been able to reply so far, it is clear that additional time will be needed for the provision of information on this matter, and a further request for such information should be envisaged. In this connection, reference could also, if desired, be made to resolution 43/131 concerning measures to facilitate the provision of relief to the victims of natural disasters.

Notes

1/ With effect from 3 October 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic united to form one sovereign State under the designation "Germany".

ANNEX I

List of national committees and/or focal points for the
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

(As at 20 September 1990)

(Key: * - new entry; ** - revision to existing entry)

The present list of national committees/focal points for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction contains information on the following 71 countries:

Afghanistan; Algeria*; Australia; Austria**; Bahamas*; Bangladesh; Belgium*; Belize; Bolivia; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile*; China; Colombia; Cuba; Czechoslovakia**; Denmark; Dominica; Ecuador*; Finland*; France; Gambia; Germany, Federal Republic of a/; Guatemala**; Haiti; Holy See; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland**; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Malawi; Mauritius; Mexico*; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal*; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Peru; Philippines; Poland**; Portugal**; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; South Africa; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Viet Nam*; and Zimbabwe*.

Afghanistan

National committee established on an interministerial basis with participation of some non-governmental organizations. Chairman: Mr. Sayed Amanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister; Deputy Chairman: Engineer Sultan Hussein, Planning Minister. The Committee is supported by a working group chaired by Dastagir Sadaqui, President of the Office of Disaster Preparedness, Council of Ministers, Kabul, which is responsible for establishing permanent contact with UNDRO/International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Algeria*

A National Committee for Major Hazards is being established, which will also have responsibility for the Decade. It will be under the direction of the Minister of the Interior, who is also in charge of environment and civil protection, and will be composed of representatives of the following Ministries: National Defence, Interior, Town Planning and Construction, Agriculture, Heavy Industry, Light Industries, Energy and Petrochemicals, Higher Education, Transport, Public Works and Foreign Affairs. Associated members will be designated by the Minister of the Interior from amongst representatives of scientific and technical institutions, humanitarian and environmental protection associations and insurance companies, as well as from personalities selected for their expertise.

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The main task of the National Committee will be the preparation of a strategy for the prevention of major hazards, of both natural or technological origin. To this end, the National Committee will organize and develop its activities through specialized commissions. The secretariat of the National Committee will be assured by the Civil Protection Directorate.

Australia

Australian Co-ordinating Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Chairman: Commodore C. J. Littleton, Royal Australian Navy, Director-General of the Natural Disasters Organization, Department of Defence, P.O. Box E33, Queen Victoria Terrace, Canberra ACT 2600. Tel.: (62) 46.66.00 (Operations), 46.62.11 (Admin.); telefax (62) 57.14.90; telex AA62634 ans. code NEOC; telegraphic code NATDIS CANBERRA ACT.

Austria**

The Austrian National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has recently been constituted. Under the Chairmanship of Professor Dr. Siegfried J. Bauer (Institute for Meteorology and Geophysics of the University of Graz), the National Committee comprises representatives from various ministries and eminent personalities. The address is: c/o "Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Dr. Ignaz-Seipel-Platz 2, A-1010 Vienna. Tel: 0043-1-515.81.236; telefax 0043-1-513.95.41; telex 01-12628.

Communications may also be addressed to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Abt.42, Ballhausplatz 2, A-1014 Vienna. Tel.: (431) 53115-3887 (direct), 53115-0 (switchboard).

Bahamas*

The National International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Committee is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Sir Clement T. Maynard, and comprises the Directors of Local Government, Works and Lands, Environmental Health Services, Meteorological Services, Agriculture, and Fisheries; Engineers from the Water and Sewage Corporation, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, and the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation; and representatives of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, the Bahamas Red Cross Society and the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas.

All information relative to the Decade should be sent to: Hon. Sir Clement T. Maynard, Deputy Prime Minister, (Chairman, The Bahamas National International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Committee), P.O. Box 3701, Nassau, The Bahamas; and to H.E. James B. Moultrie, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations, 767 Third Avenue, 9th Floor, New York 10017.

Bangladesh

A National Disaster Prevention Council, chaired by the President himself, has been set up and has started functioning in the field of co-ordination of government plans and action in the field of natural disaster forecasts, disaster management and post-disaster relief and rehabilitation work. The Government has adopted a disaster policy that puts equal emphasis on pre-disaster planning and preparedness while sustaining post-disaster relief and rehabilitation capabilities.

Belgium*

Contacts have been undertaken by Professor M. Lechat, formerly member of the international ad hoc group of experts for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, with the aim of creating a national committee that will combine political and administrative as well as financial and scientific interests.

Belize

A national Office of Emergency Management has been established, charged with the responsibility to co-ordinate all activities related to the Decade. This office is under the direction of the Permanent Secretary (Mr. Henry Gordon) in the Prime Minister's Office and is the operational arm of the Central Emergency Organization, chaired by the Prime Minister and including members of the Cabinet and nine supporting committees chaired by senior officials of the Government.
Tel.: 011-501-08-2345/08-2448; telefax 011-501-08-2886; telex 037-1102.

Bolivia

Ing. Adolfo Vargas has been nominated President of the Bolivian Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Committee's address is P.O. Box 11253, La Paz.

Brunei Darussalam

Focal point: The Department of Welfare, Youth and Sport. When established, the National Committee will include the following government departments:

- Public Works
- Town and Country Planning
- Land Transport
- Education
- Welfare, Youth and Sport
- Medicine and Health
- Information, etc.

Bulgaria

Focal point: Dr. M. Brainov, VIAS, Sofia.

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Canada

A preparatory committee for the Decade, chaired by Dr. Alan Davenport, has been set up by the Royal Society of Canada (La Société Royale du Canada) in co-operation with the Canadian Academy of Engineering (L'Académie canadienne du Génie). Address: Chairman, Committee for the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory, University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Engineering Science, London, Ontario N6A 5B9. Tel.: (519) 661-3338; telefax (519) 661-3339; telex 064-7134 LDN.

Central African Republic

Focal point: Colonel Didace N'Dayen, Président du Comité national de lutte contre l'incendie, les feux de brousse et autres calamités, B.P. 1859, Bangui.

Chile*

National Committee established, chaired by Dr. Edgar Kausel, Universidad de Chile, Facultad de Ciencias Físicas y Matemáticas, Departamento de Geología y Geofísica, Blanco Encalada 2085, Casilla 2777, Santiago.

China

China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: Mr. Chen Hong, Director, Department of Natural Disaster Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs, No. 9 Xi Huang Chen Gen Nan Jie, Beijing. Telephone Nos. (Beijing) 555096 or 656061 extension 492; telefax (Beijing) 60 7229.

Colombia

The functions of the National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction will be fulfilled by the National Technical Committee for Disaster Prevention. Contact: Mr. Camilo Cardenas Giraldo, Jefe, Oficina nacional para la Prevención de Desastres, Calle 7 No. 6-54, Piso 3, Bogotá. Tel.: 57/1-2834966 (direct); 57/1-2843300 (switchboard); telefax 57/1-233.5906; telex 4452 palp co.

Cuba

Focal point: Mr. Jose Angel Llanes Guerra, National Co-ordinator, Representante de Cuba para Casos de Desastres, Oficina de Desastres, Defensa Civil de Cuba, Calle 18 Esquina a 7ma, Avenida Miramar, Ciudad La Havana. Tel.: 2-8434/22-2311; telex 0285-2142/1224/11477.

Czechoslovakia**

The Secretariat of the Czechoslovak National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been established under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. F. Samaj. Address: c/o Slovak Institute for Hydrometeorology, Jeseniova 17, CS-83315 Bratislava - Koliba. Tel.: 00427/42630; telex 93265/92208.

Denmark

Focal point as at 1 October 1989: Ambassador Anders Brandstrup, Head of Division, DANIDA - DM.2, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2, Asiatisk Plads, DK-1448 Copenhagen. Tel.: (451) 92.00.00; telefax (451) 54.05.33; telex 31292 etr dk; cables ETRANGERES.

Dominica

National Committee established chaired by the Prime Minister, the Honourable M. E. Charles, and comprising: the Honourable Alleyne Carbon, Minister for Communications, Works and Housing; Mr. V. L. Shaw, Secretary to the Cabinet; Mr. Cecil Shillingford, Information Officer; Mr. A. Burnett-Biscombe, Chief Technical Officer/Communications, Works and Housing; Mr. W. J. Richards, Airport Manager; Mr. Kenneth Tyson, Senior Physical Planner; Mr. O. M. Norris, Manager/Dominica Port Authority; Mr. Cary Harris, Development Coordinator/Economic Development Unit; Mr. E. L. Pierre, Commissioner of Police; Mr. John Fontaine, District Development Officer/Southern District; Mr. Oliver T. Georges, Manager, Housing Division; Mr. Clement Burton, Chief Fire Officer; Mr. R. J. Clarke, National Disaster Co-ordinator; and Dr. Carissa Etienne, Health Services Co-ordinator. Address: Mr. R. J. Clarke, National Disaster Co-ordinator, Prime Minister's Office, Government Headquarters, Roseau. Tel.: 809-448-2883/809-448-2401; telefax 809-448-5200; telex 0394-8613.

Ecuador*

A High-Level Committee for the mitigation of natural disasters has been established, composed of the Secretary-General of Public Administration as President, the Directors of the four Action Fronts (Social, Internal, Foreign, Economy) and the Secretary-General of the National Security Council. The task of the Committee will be to tackle issues related to the mitigation of the impact of natural disasters. The National Civil Defence Directorate will carry out the functions of secretariat of the Committee.

Finland*

The National Committee is composed of: Chairman, Mr. Pekka Myllyniemi (Chief Director, Ministry of the Interior); Vice-Chairman, Ms. Armi Heinonen (Deputy Director-General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs); Secretaries: Mr. Teppo Paasiluoto (Chief Inspector, Ministry of the Interior); and Mr. Pentti Partanen (Director-General, Finnish Red Cross).

In addition, the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Social Affairs and Health, National Board of Health, Finnish Academy and Finnish National Society of UNICEF are represented in the National Committee.

France

The National Committee is now being formalized and will be composed of representatives from various sectors within and outside the Government. The Chairman will be Mr. Jean Aubouin, President of the Academy of Sciences, and the secretariat will be based at the Ministry of Environment and Prevention of Major Technological and Natural Disasters, 45 avenue George Mandel, F-75016 Paris. The Committee's mandate will cover both national and international activities.

Gambia

Focal point: The Permanent Secretary, Office of the Vice-President, President's Office, State House, Banjul.

Germany, Federal Republic of a/

The FRG National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction was officially established at Bonn on 21 September 1989. It is composed of 26 members, representing politics, the media, industry, science and relief services. Ambassador Gunter van Well was elected Chairman of the Committee; the Deputy Chairman will be Prince Sayn-Wittgenstein, President of the German Red Cross. The FRG National Committee's address is: Deutsches Komitee für die Internationale Dekade für Katastrophenvorbeugung 1990-2000, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 Bonn. Tel.: (228) 5411; telefax (228) 5412.90; telex 88 66 19.

Guatemala**

The National Committee was established by Presidential Decree, in response to the resolution of the General Assembly, and is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as from the National Emergency Committee.

Haiti

The National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been established and is composed of nine members. The President of the Committee is the Minister for Public Health and Population, who is also a member of the administrative committee of the Organisation pré-désastre et de secours (OPDES). Mr. Claude D. Jean, Director-General of OPDES will fulfil the role of Executive Secretary of the Committee. His address is: 148 ave. Martin Luther King, Port-au-Prince. Tel.: 5-3222; telefax 58971.

Holy See

Focal point: the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", Palazzo San Calisto, 00120 Città del Vaticano. Tel.: (6) 698-73-31; telex 2030 corunum va; telegrammes Corunum Vaticano.

Honduras

The National Committee has been established, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SECPLAN, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Health and COPEN. Contact: Dr. F. Lara, Jefe División de Servicios Móviles y Emergencias Nacionales de Salud, Ministerio de Salud Pública, Tegucigalpa, D.C.

Hungary

Focal point: Dr. János Zákonyi, Deputy Head of Department, Ministry of Environment and Water Management (Környezetvédelmi és Vízgazdálkodási minisztérium), 1394 Budapest, P.O. Box 351.

Iceland**

National Committee: Directorate of Civil Defence, Laugavegur 118-D, P.O. Box 5015, Reykjavik.

Indonesia

The National Co-ordination Board for Disaster Relief (BAKORNAS PBA) has been restructured and will deal with both natural and man-made disasters: accordingly, it will become BAKORNAS PB. To support its work, a permanent secretariat will be set up to act as focal point for disaster management and disaster related matters. The Co-ordinating Minister of People's Welfare will be the Chairman of Bakornas PB; other members include the Ministers of Social Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, Public Works, and Transportation as well as a Commander of the Armed Forces, and the Director-General of Social Assistance Development as Secretary.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

The focal point is in the process of designation.

Italy

Ambassador Eugenio Plaja has been designated to be Executive President of the National Committee, which will be established shortly. His address is c/o Ministero Affari Esteri, Direzione Generale Affari Politici, Ufficio VIII, Piazzale della Farnesina, 00100 Rome. Tel.: (6) 3691-2263; telefax (6) 3691.4258.

Jamaica

Focal point for correspondence: Dr. Barbara Carby, Head, Planning and Research, Office of Disaster Preparedness, 12 Camp Road, Kingston 5. Tel.: 809 92 85111-4; telefax 809 92 85503; telex 0291-2418.

A National Planning Committee will be established to consist of representatives from government agencies concerned with engineering, planning, the environment, public safety, emergency management and legislation. Also represented will be the insurance sector, professional associations, the private sector, scientific institutions and the media.

The major areas of focus will be as follows: identification of hazardous zones; monitoring, prediction and warning; long-term preventive measures; land use and risk management; and public education and information.

Japan

Government headquarters were established on 10 May 1989, presided over by the Prime Minister. Focal point: The National Land Agency, Disaster Prevention Bureau (Director, Mr. M. Hashimoto), 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100.
Tel.: (813) 503-5691; telefax (813) 503.5690.

Jordan

Focal point for correspondence: Directorate of Civil Defence, P.O. Box 1050, Amman.

Kenya

Pending formation of a national natural disaster committee, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction matters are being handled by the Famine Relief Fund, c/o The Permanent Secretary, Office of the President, P.O. Box 30510, Nairobi.

Liechtenstein

Focal point: Office pour les Affaires étrangères de la Principauté du Liechtenstein, Mr. Roland Marxer, Heiligkreuz 14, 9490 Vaduz.

Luxembourg

Focal point for correspondence: Mr. Gaston Storck, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, du commerce extérieur et de la coopération (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Co-operation), 6 rue de la Congrégation, L-2911 Luxembourg.

Malawi

Focal point for correspondence: The Secretary to the President and Cabinet, P.O. Box 388, Lilongwe 3.

Mauritius

Focal point: The Secretary for Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Government House, Port Louis.

Mexico*

A National Civil Protection Council, headed by the President of the Republic and composed of relevant ministries was created in May 1990. Similar bodies have also been established in individual states, in order to take up the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Decade-related functions in Mexico correspond to the policies and activities of the Government in civil protection matters and are based on an integrated approach for prevention and relief in respect of natural disasters. The Civil Protection Department co-operates closely with the Civil Protection Directorate and the National Prevention Centre, the latter being especially responsible for preventive analysis and action.

Mongolia

Focal point: Ministry for the Protection of Nature and the Environment, c/o United Nations Department, State Committee for External Economic Relations, State Planning Commission, Ulan Bator.

Morocco

Focal point: Dr. Driss Ben Sari, Directeur, Centre national de recherche, B.P. 1346, Rabat R.P. Tel.: (7) 72803, 74990, 78678; telex 32072 baht ilm m.

Mozambique

Focal point: National Institute of Meteorology (Director: Eng. Sergio Ferreira) of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The Institute's address is as follows: Instituto nacional de meteorologia, rua de mocumbura nr. 164, c.p. 256, Maputo. Tel.: 491150; telex 6259 smmmp mo.

Myanmar

Focal point: Relief and Resettlement Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, 42, Strand Road, Yangon.

Nepal*

The National Committee has been established, chaired by the Minister for Home Affairs and composed of Government, University and non-governmental organizations representatives. The secretariat is assured by the Disaster Section, Ministry of Home Affairs, Kathmandu.

Netherlands

Focal point: Mr. Sweder Van Voorst Tot Voorst, Co-ordinator, Emergency Relief and Humanitarian Assistance Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Plein 23, 2500 EB The Hague. Tel.: 003170/3484308 - 3486770 (direct), 003170/3484312 (Secretary); telefax 003170/3484.848; telex 044/31326 buza nl attn. dmp/cdb or 044/31328 buza nl attn. dmp/cdb.

Nicaragua

The National Committee has been established, chaired by the Chief of Civil Defence Staff and composed of: Minister of Health, President of the Red Cross, Director-General of Regional Planning Institute, Minister of Social Security, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Minister of External Co-operation. The contact person is Sr. Elias Noguera Garcia, Jefe, Estado Mayor Nacional, Defensa Civil, Managua. One of the Committee's tasks is to develop an ongoing campaign to disseminate information on disaster risks and to educate the public about how to face these.

Peru

Focal point: Mr. Julio Vargas, President of the Banco Comercio, Vice-President of the Banco Hipotecario, Special Assistant and Adviser on United Nations matters to the Prime Minister, Armando Villanueva (tel. 369838 or 2896560).

Philippines

Focal point: Fidel V. Ramos, Secretary and Chairman of the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council, Department of National Defense, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Four special committees have been established under the NDCC in support of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction:

- Committee on Structural Measures
- Committee on Non-Structural Measures
- Committee on Disaster Research
- Committee on Disaster Legislation.

Poland**

Focal point: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, ul. Wawelska 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw. Tel.: (004822) 25.47.16; telefax (004822) 295262/3; telex 812816/817156.

Portugal**

Focal point: Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil (The National Department of Civil Protection), Att. Dr. J. Afonso S. Nicolau, Rua da Bela Vista à Lapa, Nr.57, 1200 Lisbon. Tel.: 351-1-522202; telefax 351-1-521809; telex 14395 SNPC P.

Qatar

Focal point: Liaison Office for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Dr. Muhammed Raga'i Foda, Director of the Accidents and Emergencies Division of the Hamad Medical Foundation, Doha.

Republic of Korea

Focal point: Director, Disaster Prevention Planning Division, Water Resources Bureau, Ministry of Construction, Choongang-dong, City of Kwachon, Hyounggi-do, Republic of Korea 427-760. Tel.: 02-503-7404; telex MOCONST K24755.

Saint Lucia

A National Planning Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been appointed and is composed as follows: National Emergency Advisory Council, a representative of the Insurance Council, the Programme Director of the Organization of American States Office in Saint Lucia, a representative of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States National Resources Management, a representative of the Engineers Association, the Government Architect and the Chief Forestry Officer. Secretary of the Planning Committee is Mr. Timothy James, Government Information Service, P.O. Box 474, Castries. Tel.: 809-452-3203/809-452-3016; telefax 809-453-1614; telex 0398-6272.

So far, five sub-committees have been formed with responsibility for the following areas: land-use planning; construction; education; industry; and post disaster. These sub-committees are supposed to submit their plans of activities which will be incorporated in a national plan for the observance of the Decade.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

National Committee established: Chairperson is the Government Chief Engineer; Secretary is Mr. Bernard Morgan, Ministry of Housing, P.O. Box 714, Kingstown. Tel.: 809-457-2607; telefax 809-457-2152; telex 0399-7531.

South Africa

Focal point: Mr. G. de Villiers, Director of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers, Gillstraat 18a, Observatory, 93495 Yeoville, 2143. Tel.: (011) 648.1184; telefax (011) 648.7427.

Sudan

A national committee is being established. Chairman: H.E. Hassan Ali Shabu, Minister of Refugee Affairs, Relief and Rehabilitation; Vice-Chairman: Dr. El-Hag El-Tayeb, Acting Commissioner, Commission for Relief and Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 1975, Khartoum. Names of committee members to be communicated.

Sweden

Focal point: Statens Räddningsverk (National Rescue Services Board), Mr. Nils Olof Sandberg, Head of Department, Statens Räddningsverk, Karolinen, S-651 80 Karlstad. Tel.: (468) 103.000; telex 66197 srv s.

Switzerland

During its meeting on 19 March 1990, the Federal Council decided to establish a National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction consisting of the following three sectoral groupings: (a) post-disaster assistance; (b) preventive measures/networks, maps, planning bases; and (c) improvement of scientific bases. The President and the members of the Committee will be nominated by the Federal Department of the Interior.

Trinidad and Tobago

A National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been constituted: the Chairman is Colonel Mahendra Mathur, Director, National Emergency Management Agency, Office of the Prime Minister, 31 St. Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain. Tel.: 809-623-1943; telefax 809-627-1606; telex 0294-22549.

Turkey

A national committee has been established; the Chairman is Mr. I. Kalkan, Deputy Under-Secretary, Ministry of Public Works and Settlement. The Earthquake Research Department related to the General Directorate of Disaster Affairs in the Ministry will serve as the Decade secretariat for the national committee. The committee's address is: Bayindirlik ve iskan Bakanligi, Afet Isleri Genel Müdürlüğü, Deprem Arastirma Dairesi Baskanligi, P.O. Box 763, Kizilay, Ankara.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**

A national committee has been established: Chairman, Prof. Y. A. Izrael, State Committee for Hydrometeorology, Moscow 123376, Pavlik Morozov St. 12. Tel.: 252-08-08; telefax 2004210 semt (teleport) - yizrael; telex 411117 rums gosgimet.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Pending formation of a national committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Mr. Peter Burton has been nominated as focal point for Decade-related matters. His address is as follows: Disaster Unit, Overseas Development Administration, Eland House, Stag Place, London 1E 5DH. Tel.: (071) 273 0470; telefax (071) 273 0502; telex 263907/8, UNINET unx155.

United States of America

United States Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been proclaimed by the 100th Congress, 2nd session, Res. 290, as a means of supporting the goal of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Senate Con. Resolution 131 (3 May 1988).

National Committee established, address as follows: Dr. Richard E. Hallgren, Chairman of the United States National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, c/o National Academy of Sciences, Division of Natural Hazard Mitigation, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. 20418.
Tel.: (202) 334-1977; telefax (202) 334-2620; telex 248664 naswur.

Uruguay

A preparatory committee has been established.

Vanuatu

A national committee has now been established, composed of representatives of the Natural Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Planning and Statistics Office and Vanuatu Meteorological Service: other members may be co-opted as required.

The Chairman is Mr. W. M. Longworth, Director of the Vanuatu Meteorological Service, Private Mail Bag 54, Port Vila. Tel.: 2331 and 2932; telefax (678) 2310; telex 1106 meteo nh. Vice-Chairman is Mr. Derrek Lullum, Senior Disaster Officer, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Private Mail Bag 36, Port Vila.

The Committee's work plan includes the following:

- Identification of Vanuatu hazards;
- Risk analyses of hazards;
- Public and government awareness of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;
- International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction newsletter.

Viet Nam*

A national committee is presently under constitution.

Zimbabwe*

Focal point for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: The Department of Civil Protection in the Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development.

Notes

a/ With effect from 3 October 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic united to form one sovereign State under the designation "Germany".

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ANNEX II

Calendar of Decade-related events in 1990-1991 a/

Date/place	Meeting/subject	Organizers
<u>A. Nationally organized events</u>		
24-26 September Cologne, FRG	First World Congress on Safety Science (in the industrial society)	TUV Rheinland
24-27 September Cairo, Egypt	"Emergency 90" International Conference for Disaster Management (Present and Future)	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) co-sponsors UNDRP, ICDO, LORCS
27 September-3 October Yokohama and Kagoshima, Japan	IDNDR International Conference	The Japanese Government, City of Yokohama, Kagoshima Prefecture and UNCRD
8-12 October Various, USA	IDNDR meetings across the United States	US National Committee for IDNDR
8-17 October Geneva	Meeting of Experts on the Prevention of Major Hazards	ILO
9-19 October Moscow, Alma-Ata, Frunze, USSR	Training Seminar on Geological and Seismic Hazards	UNDRP/UNDP and USSR
9-11 October Bangkok	Regional Seminar on Disaster Mitigation	Asian Development Bank; Asian Disaster Prevention Centre/Asian Institute of Technology
10 October World-wide	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	United Nations
15-17 October Paris	Workshop on Contribution of Engineering and Technology to IDNDR	Joint Executive Committee of UITA and WFEO

Date/place	Meeting/subject	Organizers
November Kun Ming, China	Workshop on health disaster preparedness in the People's Republic of China	Ministry of Public Health in co-operation with WHO
10-12 November Baghdad	Tenth World Civil Defense Conference (focus on IDNDR)	ICDO on occasion of tenth General Assembly
19-20 November Ottawa	PAHO/WHO meeting of donor agencies	
December Bangkok	ESCAP/UNDRO Symposium on the IDNDR	ESCAP/UNDRO
1-2 December Jamaica	Two-day regional IDNDR meeting	PCOPPP/University of West Indies
10-14 December Trieste, Italy	SEISMED (UNDP/UNDRO Mediterranean Seismic Risk Project): Workshop 2	UNDRO/SEISMED
<u>1991</u>		
3-8 January Indore, India	78th Indian Science Congress Association: "Coping with natural disasters"	Indian Science Congress Association
11-15 February Madison, Wisconsin, USA	Workshop on Disaster Response and Recovery	Disaster Management Center, University of Wisconsin
March, Geneva	First meeting of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Emergency Relief Operations	WHO
7 April, Geneva	World Health Day with the theme "Disaster Preparedness"	WHO, Geneva, and each member State
21-27 April Cairo	"Hazards '91": International Symposium on Geophysical Hazards in Developing Countries and their Environmental Impacts	The International Natural Hazards Society and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology

Date/place	Meeting/subject	Organizers
May Tianjin, China (postponed from 1990)	International Emergency '90 - International Exposition for Emergency and Rescuing Equipment	China Association for Disaster Prevention, International Exchange and Co-operation Committee; China Chamber of International Commerce; Tianjin Chamber of Commerce; Tianjin International Exhibition Corporation
27 May-2 June Honolulu, Hawaii	XVII Pacific Science Congress. Theme: Towards the Pacific Century: The Challenge of Change	University of Hawaii, East-West Center
June, Helsinki	Health Education Conference, Section "Crisis and Health Promotion"	Co-sponsored by WHO
3-5 July Manizales, Colombia	Symposium on Andean Magnetism and Tectonic Setting	University of Caldas
10-12 July Los Angeles, USA	International Conference on the Impact of Natural Disasters	International Studies and Overseas Programs, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
26-29 August San Francisco Bay Region, California	Fourth International Conference on Seismic Zonation	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute
23-27 September Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania	WFEO General Assembly and International Congress on Alleviation of Natural Disasters	World Federation of Engineering Organizations/ The Institution of Engineers Tanzania
October Hamburg, FRG	Federal Republic of Germany International Congress on IDNDR - Analysis and Perspectives	German IDNDR Committee (Prof. Dr. H. J. Karpe, INFU, University of Dortmund)
November Budapest	26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Hungarian Red Cross

Date/place	Meeting/subject	Organizers
<u>B. Organized by the Decade secretariat</u>		
23-26 October Perugia, Italy	Seminar on Prediction and Perception of Natural Hazards	Consiglio nazionale dello Ricerche, US National Science Foundation, IDNDR
12-15 November Italy	IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee Preparatory meeting	IDNDR
February/March (to be decided)	IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee	IDNDR

a/ For additions and/or changes to calendar please contact IDNDR secretariat, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. FAX No. (022) 733.0695.

ANNEX III
Activity matrix for the Decade a/

Type of hazard \ Type of action	Wind storms	Storm surges	River floods	Volcanic eruptions	Earth-quakes	Tsunami	Land-slides	Ava-lanches	Wild-fires	Insect plagues	Drought and deserti-fication
Action on the causative phenomenon	WMO		<u>FAO</u> WMO UNESCO				<u>FAO</u> DTCD		<u>FAO</u>	<u>FAO</u> WHO	<u>FAO</u> UNEP WMO
Hazard zoning and microzoning	WMO UNCHS IAEA	<u>UNESCO</u> WMO IAEA ESCAP	WMO UNCHS IAEA DTCD ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u>	<u>UNESCO</u> UNCHS IAEA DTCD ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u> IAEA ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u> UNCHS ESCAP DTCD	<u>UNESCO</u> WMO	<u>FAO</u> WMO	<u>FAO</u> WMO WHO	<u>UNEP</u> WMO
Prediction and warning	<u>WMO</u>	WMO UNESCO	WMO <u>FAO</u> UNESCO DTCD WFP	<u>UNESCO</u>	<u>UNESCO</u> ECE	<u>UNESCO</u>	WMO UNESCO	WMO UNESCO	WMO	<u>FAO</u> WMO	<u>FAO</u> UNEP WMO
Preparedness planning and training, and response to warnings	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO UNCHS	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO UNCHS DTCD WFP ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> WHO UNCHS	<u>UNDRO</u> WHO UNCHS ECE	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO UNCHS	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> <u>FAO</u> WHO WMO	<u>FAO</u> UNEP WMO
Disaster assessment and analysis	<u>UNDRO</u> UNCHS WMO WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> UNCHS UNESCO WMO WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> <u>FAO</u> WMO WHO UNCHS ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> UNESCO UNCHS <u>FAO</u> WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> UNESCO <u>FAO</u> UNCHS WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> UNESCO WHO UNCHS ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> UNCHS UNESCO WHO ESCAP	<u>UNDRO</u> UNESCO WMO WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> <u>FAO</u> WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> <u>FAO</u> WMO WHO	<u>FAO</u> UNEP WMO
Long-term protection (building codes, site modification, etc.)	<u>FAO</u> WMO IAEA UNESCO WHO	UNCHS WMO UNESCO IAEA WFP WHO ESCAP	WHO UNCHS UNESCO WMO IAEA DTCD ESCAP	UNCHS FAO WHO WFP ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u> UNCHS IAEA WFP ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u> FAO WHO ESCAP	UNCHS FAO WHO WFP ESCAP	UNCHS WHO	<u>FAO</u>		<u>UNEP</u> WMO
Land-use planning	<u>FAO</u>	UNESCO DTCD ESCAP	<u>UNCHS</u> FAO WMO WFP UNESCO ESCAP	UNCHS UNESCO ESCAP	<u>UNCHS</u> UNESCO DTCD ESCAP	UNESCO ESCAP	<u>UNCHS</u> UNESCO FAO DTCD ESCAP	UNESCO	<u>FAO</u>	<u>FAO</u> WMO	<u>FAO</u> WMO
Public information and education	<u>UNDRO</u> WHO WMO UNCHS	<u>UNDRO</u> UNESCO WMO WHO	<u>UNDRO</u> WMO UNCHS UNESCO DTCD ESCAP	<u>UNESCO</u> UNDRO UNCHS WHO WMO	<u>UNESCO</u> UNDRO UNCHS WHO DTCD	<u>UNESCO</u> UNDRO WHO	<u>UNESCO</u> UNDRO UNCHS WMO DTCD	<u>UNDRO</u> WHO WMO UNESCO	<u>UNDRO</u> WHO	<u>FAO</u> UNDRO WMO WHO	<u>FAO</u> UNEP WMO

Notes. Apart from its principal concern with disaster preparedness, assessment and public information, UNDRO has a co-ordinating and supporting role in all aspects of disaster mitigation.

Upon government request, all activities mentioned above are eligible for UNDP funding.

a/ Entry in bold type (underlined) indicates active engagement in work on problems involved. Entry in light type indicates interest in problems involved.

ANNEX IV

Examples of UNDRO project-related contributions to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

1. In February 1990 UNDRO published a special issue of its UNDRO News exclusively dedicated to the launching of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The 35-page publication contained messages from prominent personalities from countries that had been particularly supportive of the Decade and provided a cross-sectoral overview on a number of key issues of the Decade. Until now, more than 8,000 copies have been distributed world wide.
2. After the disastrous earthquake in Armenia in December 1988, UNDRO undertook a large-scale study on a number of disaster management issues in response to requests put forward by the authorities in Moscow and Erevan. The study aimed at analysing the experiences that had been gained before, during and after the disaster. Within the framework of the Decade it is intended to provide recommendations for the development of disaster management capabilities at the national/regional level that could also serve as models for international co-operation in this field. The report was published in September 1990 as a specific contribution to the Decade, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany and supported with substantive in-country input from the Soviet Union. The study followed an interdisciplinary approach by UNDRO, a group of high-level international scientific consultants, and specialists from the Soviet Union, including members of the Technical Institute of the Armenian SSR. It presents a strategy and develops a methodology for risk assessment and disaster management planning through applied science and technology. Thus it should be of interest particularly to the technical and public safety authorities of the international community.
3. After the Manjil earthquake in the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 1990, UNDRO participated substantively in a multi-agency effort under the co-ordination of UNDP to provide the Iranian authorities with specific disaster mitigation expertise in order to support their rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in line with the concept as set forth in the plans for the Decade. UNDRO assisted in particular in a technical review of the earthquake's impact and the preparation of recommendations for a multidisciplinary approach to reconstruction. The document aims at ensuring that all concerned institutions are made aware of, and take the appropriate steps to incorporate all relevant mitigation measures into the reconstruction plan. It deals with seismic hazard evaluation in the affected region, damage and loss assessment, land use planning under seismic conditions, seismic resistant construction methods, and the local production of adequate building material.
4. As a follow-up to an UNDRO mission to China, where extensive discussions had been held on disaster mitigation with the competent Chinese authorities and the UNDP Resident Representative, a number of needs in this field have been identified and activities have been projected, as mentioned earlier in this report. A senior UNDRO staff member will visit China again to continue discussions, inter alia, on

an integrated disaster management centre, a typhoon disaster reduction project in Hainan, flood disaster mitigation on the Jang Tse river and an earthquake disaster reduction project in the Shin Yang region. This will enable a project team that includes UNDRO and Decade representatives to develop specific project proposals for international technical co-operation.

5. After carrying out several needs assessment missions to Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea in early 1990, UNDRO started implementation of a regional disaster management project in the South Pacific, in close co-operation with UNDP Suva and the Decade secretariat. An UNDRO South Pacific Project Office has been established and staff have been appointed. A regional seminar will be held early in 1991 in Fiji.

6. The Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project initiated in 1981 and managed by UNDRO has served 29 participating States and Territories in the Caribbean region. The activities of this Project, which will end on 31 December 1990, has focused on training of personnel, technical assistance, surveys of vulnerable areas, the creation and activation of national disaster preparedness offices and the improvement of emergency telecommunications systems. The project has furthermore encouraged and supported Governments in the region to establish and name national committees for the International Decade for Disaster Reduction. An independent evaluation of the Project has just been concluded. It states that the project has built up a high level of interest in the area for disaster management and that it has made major contributions to the training of personnel and provided equipment for the operation of emergency response. UNDRO support to disaster management in the Caribbean should, therefore, continue in the 1990s. The new UNDRO Caribbean programme will be situated within the overall efforts of the Decade.

7. In the aftermath of hurricane "Hugo", which struck the Caribbean region severely in September 1989, UNDRO has executed a specific Decade-related awareness-raising project in the region. The project was implemented early in 1990 by the UNDRO Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project, in close collaboration with the Decade secretariat, and comprised a regional seminar for media representatives to promote the goals and objectives of the Decade as well as the production of a video and a speaker's module as supporting promotion material. The project has been financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. a/

8. In the Mediterranean region the "Co-operative Project for Seismic Risk Reduction - SEISMED" demonstrates well the potential for a regional approach towards disaster reduction. The project involves all Mediterranean countries as they are to various extents prone to seismic hazards; it is also built on inter-agency co-operation within the United Nations system and a continuous interchange with the planning of scientific communities. UNDRO has been subcontracted by UNDP/OPS for the execution of the project, whose first phase is scheduled to end in May 1991. The project is financed jointly by UNDP with \$200,000 and the Government of Italy with \$1.4 million. The main aim of the project lies in the practical application of existing scientific knowledge and technology to seismic hazard analysis, seismic risk and vulnerability assessment

and risk reduction measures. As such it tries to provide decision makers, national and local administrators and land-use planners with the instruments to approach the broad issue of planning in seismic regions in a coherent and regionally co-ordinated way.

9. In October 1989 a severe earthquake affected the region of Tipaza in Algeria. Analysis in the aftermath of the disaster indicated that in spite of lessons learnt during the major Algerian earthquake of 1980 (El-Asnam) serious gaps remained in the field of awareness for disaster mitigation needs and potential. Bearing this in mind UNDRO developed a Decade demonstration project in close co-operation with the Decade secretariat, which will be integrated into the overall efforts of SEISMED. The project, which has been financed by the Government of Denmark, comprises the development of guidelines for seismic-resistant construction of low-cost buildings and a workshop to provide these guidelines to local administrators, architects and builders. The project contains important in-country contributions; it is a good example of support for the development of a national strategy for natural disaster reduction within the framework of the Decade.

10. With the help of substantive financial contributions from the Governments of Finland and the Federal Republic of Germany, a/ UNDRO has been able to execute a study on its development requirements in the field of information management, not only as an internal office support system but primarily with a view to improved international disaster-related information exchange. As a result of this study, and as a contribution to the Decade, UNDRO is beginning to implement a project that aims at the creation of a global interactive system for information exchange for disaster-related data. It is intended to support relief co-ordination and to provide access to particular data bases - global, regional or national - that contain information on disaster mitigation knowledge and resources. Some of the basic tools are already in place, in particular UNIENET, the United Nations International Emergency Network. They need to be further developed in a partnership between UNDRO and other United Nations agencies and programmes, Governments, scientific and technical institutions, non-governmental organizations and institutional disaster managers.

11. UNDRO has begun to implement, jointly with UNDP, a global disaster management training strategy. This project aims primarily at training UNDRO and UNDP staff in this field. In line with the concept of the Decade, especially with regard to the creation of an overall awareness for the issue of natural disaster reduction at all levels, the project, however, goes further. It intends to improve the overall United Nations system's capabilities in disaster management through constant co-ordinated professional development and the sensitization of headquarters' staff and the United Nations field system towards this issue. In addition it wants to link the United Nations efforts with national development and enable the planners at the national level to assess their country's status in disaster management, define the gaps and develop strategies for improvement. Therefore, national counterparts will be invited to participate strongly in the training activities. It is hoped that as such the disaster management training strategy will act as a catalyst to generate political support for the issue of disaster reduction with decision makers and to bring forward concrete mitigation projects - including national or regional training initiatives - within the development process.

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12. An UNDRO manual entitled "Mitigating Natural Disasters", financed by the Government of the Netherlands has been completed, and will be published within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction before the end of 1990. The manual, which is both a methodological and practical guide in project information gathering and management, has been developed as a training tool for disaster managers regionally and locally at the technical, planning and policy-making levels. The manual is complementary to the UNDRO/UNDP Disaster Management Training Project.

Notes

a/ See footnote a/ to annex I.

ANNEX V

Status of international protocols and conventions

The present annex contains summaries of information provided by the Governments of Austria, Belgium and Spain on international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster.

Austria

Austria intends to conclude bilateral agreements for assistance in cases of disasters with all neighbouring States. Such a bilateral agreement on mutual assistance in cases of disasters with the Federal Republic of Germany was signed on 23 December 1988. Furthermore, negotiations on such agreements are being undertaken with Switzerland and Hungary and draft agreements have been exchanged with Italy and Czechoslovakia. Also, owing to an Austrian initiative during the final CSCE session in January 1989, a text of a European convention for co-ordinated assistance in cases of disaster has been drawn up and should be made available to all European countries for consideration and comments later this year.

Belgium

List of conventions and agreements for mutual assistance in cases of disaster in which Belgium has participated

1. Agreement between Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning the connection of the Luxembourg warning system to the Belgian warning system, concluded in Luxembourg through exchanges of letters dated 19 and 23 February 1955.
2. Protocol between Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning the provision of supplies in time of need (with protocol of signature), signed at Brussels on 29 January 1963.
3. Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning mutual assistance in matters of civil defence, signed at Brussels on 23 July 1970.
4. Convention between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany ^{a/} on mutual assistance in the event of disasters or serious accidents, signed at Brussels on 6 November 1980.
5. Convention between the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Government of the French Republic on mutual assistance in the event of disasters or serious accidents, signed at Paris on 21 April 1981.
6. Convention between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning mutual assistance in combating disasters and accidents, signed at The Hague on 14 November 1984.

7. Convention on early notification of a nuclear accident, signed at Vienna on 26 September 1986 (in process of ratification).
8. Convention on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, signed at Vienna on 26 September 1986 (in process of ratification).

Spain

Multilateral treaties for assistance in cases of disaster

- Constitution of the World Health Organization, New York, 22 July 1946;
- International Plant Protection Convention, Rome, 6 December 1951;
- Multinational convention for the pursuit of the activities of the Regional Centre for Seismology for South America (CERESIS), Lima, 18 June 1971;
- Convention establishing the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, Brussels, 11 October 1973;

Bilateral treaties

Argentina: Convention on co-operation in forecasting, prevention and mutual assistance in cases of disaster, signed on 3 June 1988.

France: Convention on mutual assistance between French and Spanish fire and emergency services, signed on 14 July 1959.

Additional Agreement to the Convention on mutual assistance between French and Spanish fire and emergency services, signed at Madrid on 14 July 1959, signed on 8 February 1974.

Amendment to the Convention on mutual assistance between French and Spanish fire and emergency services, signed on 19 June 1978.

Portugal: Agreement on co-ordination of malaria control operations, signed on 20 October 1959.

Agreement on mutual assistance between Portuguese and Spanish fire and emergency services, signed on 31 March 1980.

Notes

a/ See footnote a/ to annex I.
